

EAGLE NEWS

Spring 2005

Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton

Awards Program Celebrates Students

The students and staff were all excited about the day's event as they gathered in the Bradford Hall Auditorium. It was Awards Day! The highlight of the day came when each student came forward to accept awards for their achievements in the classroom and other activities during the 2004-2005 school year. The students also received awards for work experience as part of transition services. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Janet Knust, Teacher

1. Best Behavior—Envee Williams
2. Most Enthusiastic—Alexis Adams
3. Most Helpful—Kayla Moore
4. Most Improved Listener—Caleb Adams

Don Smith, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Aurora Claiborne
2. Most Improved—LaPrecious Porter
3. Academic Progress—Markus Lane
4. Perfect Attendance—Malik Sims
5. Citizenship—Ashley Britt

Claudine Wiggins, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Christopher Boone
2. Perfect Attendance—Michael Girma
3. Perfect Attendance - Millicent Hernandez
4. Most Improved Behavior—Randolph Kendrick

Mona Ash, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Sarah Komlo
2. Most Helpful—Marlee Filer
3. Most Improved—Colleen Kelly

Stella Okafor, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Anthony Cabell
2. Most Improved—Justin Jamison
3. Most Improved—Jeremiah Caudillo
4. Classroom Helper—Antonio Lee
5. Perfect Attendance—Justin Jamison

Jean DeLuca, Teacher

1. Most Sociable—Tommy Adams
2. Most Creative—Ravern Turner

Angelique Small, Teacher

Putting Forth Their Best Effort Awards

1. Kaitlyn Gallagher
2. Dana Smith
3. Jimmy Caldwell
4. Maria Bowmaster
5. Library Award—Dana Smith



Celebrating Students at Awards Program

Susan Nowotny, Teacher

1. Hardest Worker—Shequita Campbell
2. Most Improved—LeNesha Edwards
3. Most Helpful—Bruce Goode

Ondinia Temple, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Darren Johnson
2. Best Attendance—Shenia Washington
3. Best Attendance—Darren Johnson
3. Hardest Worker—Darren Johnson
4. Hardest Worker—Alnita Squire
5. Hardest Worker—Jessica Jones
6. Best Behavior—Darren Johnson
7. Most Cooperative—Darren Johnson
8. Most Improved—Dexter Booker-Snead
9. Most Improved—Robert Frazier
10. Most Creative—Jessica Jones
11. Most Helpful—Darren Johnson
12. Most Helpful—Robert Frazier

Dawn Hilton, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Desiree Waller
2. Best Attendance—Michael Harding
3. Hardest Worker—Desiree Waller
4. Most Improved—Freddie White
5. Most Creative—Yolanda Linnette

Carolyn Jackson, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—DeShaun Johnson
2. Best Attendance—David Barranco
3. Best Behavior—Jasmine Fuller
4. Most Creative—Shea Vaughan

Seymour Ward, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Michael Pamplin
2. Best Attendance—Robert Jones
3. Most Cooperative—Thomas Brooks
4. Best Effort—Almonte Jones
5. Hardest Worker—August Young
6. Most Improved—Joshua Beck

Merlinda Gates, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—David Fletcher
2. Most Improved—David Fletcher
3. Best Attendance—Michael Fosque
4. Best Behavior—Michael Fosque

Melanie Paul, Teacher

1. Student of the Class—Kenny Gore
2. Most Helpful—Kenny Gore
3. Most Polite—Kenny Gore
4. Most Cooperative—DeShaun Wade
5. Most Improved Behavior—DeShaun Wade



ON THE JOB TRAINING AWARDS

Students who are 14 and older at VSDBMH are employed on and off campus. The students work in varying settings. They are evaluated by their employer and school staff. The awardees are:

Off-Campus —Job Training

1. Best Performance—DeAndre Simms
2. Most Dedicated—Darren Johnson
3. Most Improved—Michael Pamplin

On Campus—Job Training

1. Best Performance—Ryan Westbrook
2. Most Dedicated—Shaquita Campbell
3. Most Improved—Dexter Booker-Snead

PAES (Practical Assessment Evaluation System)

1. Best Performance—Robert Frazier
2. Most Dedicated—Alnita Squire
3. Most Improved—Maria Bowmaster

Several students also received awards in the areas of Physical Therapy, Orientation and Mobility, Speech/Audiology and Occupational Therapy.

VSDB Consolidation Update

During the coming week, parents of students attending the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton and Hampton will receive a letter from the Virginia Department of Education providing updates to the consolidation activities for the schools.

Over the past month, several actions have been taken to implement direction from the General Assembly for consolidation of the two programs. Item 135.F., Chapter 4, Special Session 1, 2004 Acts of Assembly, directs the Board of Education, assisted by the Department of General Services, to consider Public Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) proposals to plan and design the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton into a single campus.

The language of the budget bill item is provided for your information on page 4 of this newsletter.

Parents desiring to review copies of the Consolidation Task Force or Feasibility Study Reports may access these documents online at the following web addresses:

- Report of the Feasibility Study for Consolidating the State's Two Schools for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled (2004)
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/sssop/FeasibilityStudy.pdf>
- Report of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Consolidation Task Force (2003)
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/sssop/TaskForceReport.doc>





Excerpt—Item 135.F., Chapter 4, Special Session 1, 2004 Acts of Assembly

Related to VSDB Consolidation

D.1. In order to provide improved services through up-to-date facilities as well as to achieve long-term cost savings, notwithstanding other provisions of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multi-disabled at Hampton shall be consolidated into one school upon completion of any renovations, additions, or new facility construction at a site as determined by the State Board of Education with assistance from the Department of General Services.

2.a. The State Board of Education, assisted by the Department of General Services, shall consider, among other options, Public-Private Education Act (PPEA) proposals to plan and design the consolidation of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-disabled at Hampton into a single campus and the transfer of students, programs and services to a single campus, the location of which shall be incorporated into a PPEA proposal or a conventional capital construction project proposal that will be accepted, reviewed and adopted by the State Board of Education no later than July 31, 2005.

b. In the event that the State Board of Education selects a PPEA proposal, the Department of General Services is authorized to enter into an agreement for construction of the new school at a total cost not to exceed \$61.5 million.

3. The Departments of Education and General Services shall provide an update on the final location selected by the State Board of Education and on the planning and construction process to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committees on Education and Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Finance and Education and Health by October 1, 2005. At a minimum, the report shall address:

a. Revised cost estimates and proposed timelines for construction of the new facility for consolidating services for the students served by Virginia's two schools at Staunton and Hampton;

b. In cooperation with the Department of Planning and Budget, revised projected operating budgets for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, including any one-time transition costs;

c. The status of proposed mechanisms to assist school divisions with programs for children transferring into local school divisions rather than continuing enrollment at the new school location;

d. Detailed cost estimates of possible program enhancements, including specialized technology, expanding services to include deaf children with emotional disabilities; and

e. Potential alternative uses of the existing campuses in Hampton and Staunton.

For Your Information (Upcoming Family Training Events)

National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments, Inc. presents:
The Stonewall Transition Conference
June 16 & 17, 2005
Stonewall Jackson State Park in Roanoke, West Virginia



The focus of the conference will be transition issues related to children and adolescents who are blind or visually impaired including those with multiple disabilities.

Registration information is available online at: www.careerconnect.org or
Contact: Susan LaVenture, Executive Director @ 1-800-562-6265



Registration Fee: Full Conference without overnight accommodations \$75.00



The American Printing House for the Blind, National Association for Parents of Children with Visually Impairments and the Hadley School for the Blind present:

National Family Conference
August 12-14, 2005
Galt House Hotel
Louisville, Kentucky



THEME: "Families Connecting with Families!"

HOTEL COSTS: Suites at the Galt House are \$85 a night and the regular rooms are \$77 a night.

REGISTRATION: The fee for a family to attend the entire conference is only \$100, which includes a reception on Friday night, lunch on Saturday, family activities on Saturday night, and a brunch on Sunday morning.

PROGRAM: Many of the leaders in the field of blindness will be presenting at this conference, including key-note presentations by Kevin O'Connor and Dr. Deborah Hatton.

CHILDCARE: Childcare will be provided at the times indicated on the program. Activities are being planned for young people based on their ages.

Full information, including an agenda and additional hotel information, is available at: <http://www.aph.org/advisory/nfc.html>

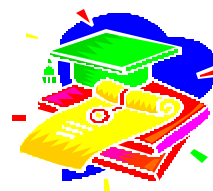


Teacher Participates in National Read Across America Activities

VSDBM-H teacher Melanie Paul participated in this year's "National Read Across America" Day. Mrs. Paul took part in a one-hour reading program in Mrs. Houser's 1st-grade class at Edmonton Elementary School in Hampton City Public Schools. Also participating in the event was Mrs. Paul's therapy dog, Shiloh, who also participates in the "Paws-To-Read" literacy program sponsored by the Hampton Public Library. Fifteen Student in Ms. Houser's class participated.

The story read to the class was entitled *Dr. White*, and was written by Jane Goodall. It is a story about a special kind of healing and love given by a very special "doctor". Mrs. Paul read the story both verbally and in Signed Exact English because Mrs. Housers' students were beginning to learn sign language. At the conclusion of the story the students had an opportunity to ask questions about the story, therapy dogs and sign language. The students then proudly showed their signing skills. Each student was presented with a Dr. Seuss "Cat-In-The-Hat" bookmark, as well as sign language activities related to reading and materials on appropriate signing for elementary children.

We are very proud of Mrs. Paul not only for her work as a teacher at VSDBMH but also for the volunteer work she does in the community. Continue your excellent work, Mrs. Paul!



Thank you Mrs. Paul for all that you do.



VSDBMH Staff Advisory Council

As a result of their tremendous work over the past months, the Staff Advisory Council (SAC) had many accomplishments in which members and all employees can be proud. The Council has sponsored several functions including a Parent /Community Open House, ASL Job Fair in conjunction with Tidewater Community College, a staff pot luck, and a Student/Staff Talent Show.

The Council includes representatives from all departments and employee groups including: teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists, administrative assistants, as well as buildings and grounds personnel. Department Directors also are a part of the council as non-voting members.

The Advisory Council provides a forum for staff to share ideas, receive information regarding agency affairs, recognize their colleagues and meet with supervisory staff in order to express workplace concerns from staff. The Council is co-chaired by two agency employees.

Thanks SAC For Your Hard Work and Perseverance!

No Child Left Behind**Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Update**

Under requirements for schools receiving funds under the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* federal legislation, paraprofessionals working in the schools must meet new requirements. Since implementation of the law in 2002, VSDBM-H has required these new standards for all new paraprofessional employees. However, some staff members who have worked with us over the years, will need to satisfy the new requirements by January 2006. Under NCLB, paraprofessionals in the Instruction and Student Life Departments who work with students in an instructional capacity must satisfy one of the following requirement:

- An associate of arts degree OR
- Two years of college OR
- Demonstrate, through a state or local academic assessment, knowledge of, and the ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing, and math.

VSDBM-H is assisting its employees with the requirement through providing funds for college coursework and by assisting paraprofessional prepare to take the state approved assessment. Ms. Ruby McMullen, Director of Human Resources, has led the agency's efforts to form a partnership with the Workforce Development Center at Thomas Nelson Community college to pre-test paraprofessional in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. Further, small group and one-on-one instruction is being provided to agency paraprofessionals to assist them with preparation for the ParaPro Assessment, the state approved assessment.

Paraprofessionals from the Instruction and Student Life Departments are to be commended for the hard work and extra studying that is underway to "rise to the challenge" of this new federal requirements. VSDBM-H has not left our staff to fulfill this requirement on their own. We're with them 100% through this process.

VSDBM-H Welcomes The Following New Staff**Instruction**

Cheryl McMullen—Administrative Assistant
 Marissa Wilson—Administrative Assistant
 Linda Massenburg—Assistant Director of Instruction
 Robyn Robertson—Substitute Teacher
 Brandon Banks—Substitute Teacher
 Chano Padrones—Substitute Teacher

Student Life

Stephanie Moore—Director of Student Life

Operations

Michael Biggs—Director of Operations

Clinical Services

MaryAnn Harris - Licensed Practical Nurse
 Katie Green—Licensed Practical Nurse



Auditory Oral Pre-School Celebrates Success for Students

As the second year comes to an end, students in our Auditory/Oral preschool class are excited about their experience. The class has been full of language and learning. The children in this class are learning to listen and comprehend what they hear. Some children use high-powered hearing aids and others use a cochlear implant, but they all benefit from their amplification. In the classroom, the focus is on learning to use spoken language to effectively communicate.

Three times a week the preschoolers join the Head Start class next door to gain more experience using language and listening skills. The children participate in "Morning Circle" and other activities with hearing children their age. They have made a lot of new friends.



Mrs. Knust's Pre-School Class

In the classroom, the students enjoy learning familiar folk tales, such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Gingerbread Man", as well as traditional nursery rhymes, including "Humpty Dumpty" and "1,2, Buckle My Shoe." Acting out stories and rhymes are a favorite pastime. Songs are also included in most favorite activities and students love to dance and move to the rhythms. Their favorite activities include "dress up time".

Getting ready for Kindergarten is hard work, but a lot of fun. Stop in any time to see what we're doing.

VSDBMH is preparing for its second preschool class to begin in the Fall 2005. We are also enrolling non-disabled children who will learn and also become language models. Children who are applying as language models for the preschool need to exhibit good language skills and age-appropriate development. Parents may pick up an application from the Student Service Office at 700 Shell Road, (Building #14) Hampton, VA. Once the application is complete, contact Ms. Janet Knust, Teacher to schedule a visit and screening. Ms. Knust can be reached at 757-247-8108.



Parent/Community ASL Class

ASL classes for parents continue in full swing. Parents from throughout the Hampton Roads community attend classes at VSDBM-H to learn American Sign Language to help them learn to communicate with their children who are deaf. The class meets each Wednesday from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and is free for participants.

Classes are free to parents as a parent training and outreach activity of the school for parents of children who do not attend VSDBM-H. Classes will continue until the end of this school year and will begin again in the Fall 2005 –2006 school year. For more information about the class please contact Kathy Mutter, ASL Instructor or Becky Cyphers, Interpreter, at 757-247-2050 or by email at interpreters@vsdbmh.virginia.gov.



Bradford Hall and Educational Road Renovations Projects

Over the next weeks, two renovation projects will begin on the VSDBM-H campus. The first project will widen the parking lot behind Palmer Hall (the school building) and add parking spaces in front of the Palmer Hall and Butler Hall so that visitors to the building may enter into the front lobby of the buildings. This project also includes adding a pre-fabricated Security Building with electrical power and telephone service at the main entrance to the campus and improvements to the storm drain system behind Palmer Hall.

The most extensive renovation project will be completed in Bradford Hall, built in 1951 with classroom addition completed in 1975. This is the largest and oldest campus building and was formerly the high school building. This project will remove all existing windows and replace them with thermal insulated single hung windows; replace damaged/deteriorated lintels over exterior windows and selected exterior doors; repair cracks in exterior walls; repaint interior walls; and replace the building's HVAC System. During this project electrical systems will be re-worked. There will be modifications to the lighting systems and acoustical ceiling tiles will be replaced. HVAC mechanical systems will be housed in a new brick screened enclosure .

We anticipate that the Education Road project will be completed by the beginning of the new school year and the renovations to the Bradford Hall will be finished by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA 04)

On December 3, 2004, President Bush signed the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) into law. Several changes in special education requirements and procedures will become effective July 1, 2005 as a result of the new law. Over the next few months, the VSDBM-H staff will distribute special bulletins and schedule meetings with parents to provide training on the changes in the federal law and procedures within the Commonwealth. The major changes that parents will want to be aware of are in the following areas:

- Discipline of a student when it is found that the child's behavior was not a result of their disability.
- Removal of a student when behavior results in serious bodily injury.
- State use of IDEA funds to provide early intervention for students in regular education who have academic and behavioral problems.
- Transition planning beginning at age 16 with an educational plan focused on post-secondary goals and improved involvement by vocational rehabilitation systems.
- An established standard for highly qualified special education teachers.
- Changes in delivery systems to ease transition of students for early intervention and preschool services.
- Changes to Parent Due Process Rights.
- Greater alignment of alternate assessments to State standards for all students.
- Reduction of paperwork particularly in the preparation of Individual Education Plans.





Graduation 2005

When: June 22, 2005

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: Bradford Hall

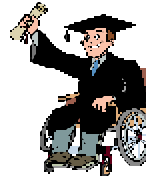
Our Graduates:

Kayla Moore

Michael Pamplin

DeAndre Simms

April Teal



Congratulations Class of 2005

Extended School Year Services at VSDBMH

July 10th through July 27th

Day students will attend Monday through Wednesday.

Dormitory students will attend Sunday through Wednesday. Wednesday is a half-day session for all students.

ESY services are provided based upon recommendations from the students' IEP team and student eligibility for the service.



Summer Camp at VSDBM- HAMPTON



Camp Adventure 2005

July 10—13 and
July 17—20

Join us at VSDBM-H for a Fun-Filled
Summer Adventure!



VSDBMH will celebrate summer with our annual Summer Camp. The program will accept Virginia youth who are deaf, blind or visually impaired and between the ages of ten (10) and seventeen (17). Students must be able to perform daily living skills such as dressing and personal hygiene care independently or with minimal assistance. Please contact Chris Bethune in the Student Life Department for additional registration details and information. Chris may be reached at 1-800-666-0041 ext. 2035 or 757-247-2035. Ms. Bethune can be reached by email at chris.bethune@vsdbmh.virginia.gov.

Congratulations Dexter



May was Better Hearing and Speech Month and one of our students celebrated with a trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota and NEW Digital Hearing Aids! Dexter Snead received two new Starkey Davinci PxP behind-the-ear hearing aids from the Starkey Hearing Aid Foundation - HEAR NOW. This organization provides hearing aids to children and other individuals with special needs all over the world. Bill Austin is the owner and founder of the Starkey Hearing Aid Company.

While attending a conference in Minnesota Liza Button, VSDBM-H Audiologist, was presented with an amazing opportunity for one of her students! As a result, Mr. Austin offered Dexter the opportunity to go to Minneapolis and receive new hearing aids. The digital technology in the

Davinici PxP allows the hearing aids to compensate for an individual's hearing loss. The aids can also be modified in the future should the user's hearing thresholds change. With his new hearing aids Dexter can once again hear the voices of individuals in his environment and his mother's voice on the telephone. While in Minnesota, Dexter was able to see how hearing aids were made and even look inside of his own ears. Dexter is one of millions of individuals who have been fitted with hearing aids through this organization. While at the company, Dexter saw pictures of many of the Starkey hearing aid recipients through the years including the "Incredible Hulk", former President Reagan and former President Bush. He also had an opportunity to talk to other Deaf individuals and hearing aid users.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Bill Austin and the entire Starkey Hearing Aid Foundation for providing such a wonderful gift and educational experience for a VSDBM-H student.

Sidekick Training

Continuing the tradition of providing students and staff with appropriate resources for communication and other learning needs, staff recently began training from Howard Johnson, VSDBM-H Assistive Technology Specialist and Becky Cyphers, VSDBM-H Interpreter, on the use of SideKick technology for individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The SideKick provides a comfortable keyboard and LCD panel which improved real-time communication over a TTY. Using the SideKick will provide selected students additional opportunities for learning real-life communication skills and give staff additional means of communicating particularly during off-campus activities.



VSDBM-HAMPTON IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS



Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns you have regarding services to your child.

Main Number 757-247-2050
 Toll Free Number 800-666-0041
 Voice/TTY

(Area Code 757)

Darlene White, Superintendent	247-2033
Willnette Bailey, Health Services	247-2054
Stephanie Moore, Student Life	247-2188
Patricia Allen, Student Life	247-2035
Donna Lawson, Education	247-2058
Security Department	508-1684